

Category 4 (Resource Development)

Unmasking North Korea

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Abstract

Unmasking North Korea is a website and lesson package which aims to teach secondary school students, more notably secondary one and secondary two students, “ about the country of North Korea and many different aspects of it such as their food, culture, politics and environment.” The information will be organised by themes on a website accompanied by pictures of the parts of North Korea mentioned above. This will thus help students to understand more about the country and the lives of people living there.

Introduction

1.1 Rationale

As the topic of North Korea’s president Kim Jong Un and the news about his arsenal of nuclear weapons became a very hot topic and with media outlets like the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) and CNN (Cable News Network) covering more and more about the country of North Korea, our group felt like it would be a good topic to touch on this subject. All that the news covered was about the sanctions on North Korea and the relationship between Kim Jong Un and the President of United States of America, Donald Trump, as things became very heated. However, my group wanted to show students the true light of North Korea and different aspects of the country itself. (Note that we are not supporting North Korea’s actions before the summit occurred)

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of this project were to

- educate the students on the true light of this country
- show the side of North Korea that is hidden from us

1.3 Target Audience

Lower secondary students.



“Photo of a mountain side in North Korea”

1.4 Resources

The resource created was an online integrated platform with information on the culture, food, politics and military of North Korea. There is also a quiz incorporated to test viewers their understanding of the country.

2. Review

The current existing resources on the internet now about North Korea and various wikipedia pages. However, we felt that it would be a hassle to go through all the pages and from various websites. Hence, we decided to compile all the information together in one website and make it easier for lower secondary students to understand.

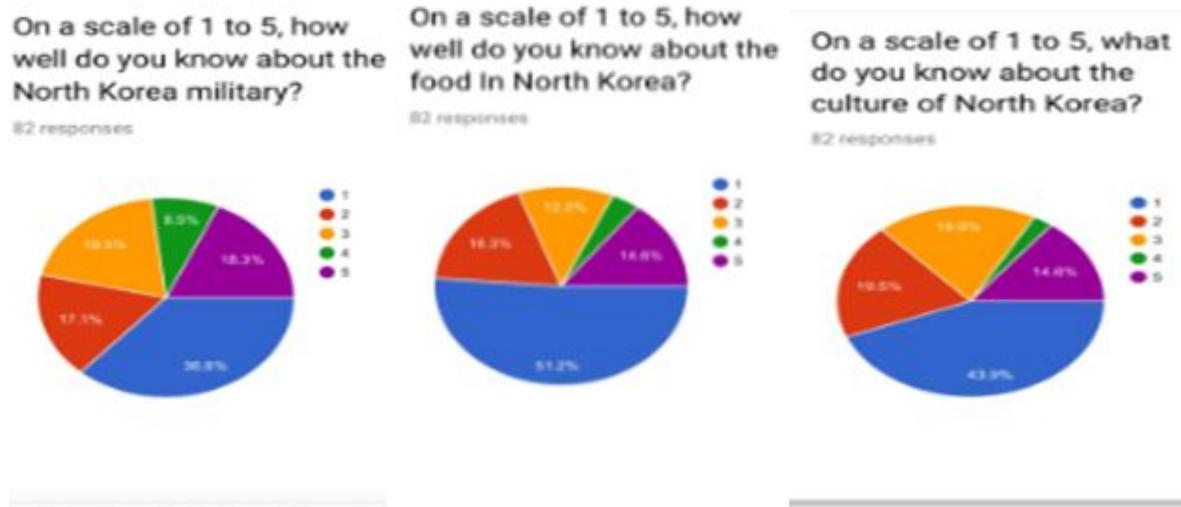
3. Methodology

3.1. Needs Analysis

A needs analysis was conducted to ascertain the relevance of such a project. A survey was conducted to find out more about the students' knowledge of North Korea. From the results, it was depicted that students had little knowledge about the life in North Korea. Besides, they felt that a website to educate them would be useful as it could provide them with the information about the country. Apart from a survey which we reached out

to HCI students, we also conducted an interview with students from other schools like Nanyang girls and Raffles Institution

3.2 Survey Results



Qualitative comments:

"After watching the summit, I would like to know more about North Korea actually and a website like yours could help me greatly!"

"Ever since Kim Jong Un rose to 'fame' after creating nuclear weapons capable of destroying a country, I have been curious about their military infantry and technology."

"I am visiting South Korea this winter and my parents may apply for a visa to cross to North Korea. As such, I want to gain some knowledge about the country beforehand."

3.3 Development

Our group conducted reviews on the various websites about North Korea. Most of these websites had views that were either biased or without pure facts. As such, we collated real information by carrying out literature review of books gathered from the library. Moreover, as one of our group members had a relative visiting North Korea before, we sought to ask her about her experience there. After completing all this, we created the website and input the information respectively. A mini quiz was added at

the last point of the website to test students knowledge about North Korea after reading the information.

4. Outcome and discussion

The final outcome of the whole project was the website with information about North Korea created by the platform Wix. However, the website was limited to online which means that students had to have an internet connection to view the website. If possible, we would make this website available to be viewed offline through the usage of HTML or infographics.

5. Conclusion

This project was pretty challenging as North Korea kept most of the information about them secret and it was quite hard to find actual trusted information about the country. This project was also hard as the group consisted of secondary one students and this was the first time we undertook a project of such importance. However, the project had allowed us to develop many skills. For example, in primary school there were few opportunities for group work and most of us did everything by ourselves. Now with the project work, we had learnt the value of teamwork and how one teammate not doing his job in the project could bring the entire team down. We also had to persevere and allocate much of our time doing the project.

6. Acknowledgements

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3 Students from Nanyang Girls and Raffles Institution who took their time out and agreed to participate in our interview.

All the HCI students who helped to complete the survey.

7. References

Mountains in North Korea (2012, 6 August) Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environment_of_North_Korea